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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Uranium Mines in Thuringia, the Harz Mountains, and the Erzgebirge	DATE DISTR.	17 February 1955
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	22
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC	X	OSI	Ev	X	
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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 24 Nov 1954

SUBJECT Uranium Mines in Thuringia, the Harz Mountains, and the Erzgebirge

NO. OF PAGES 21

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The principal element in the ore mined in the pinpointed areas of this report was uranium. No special attention was paid to any other element because of its low content.
2. Four of the Lichtenberg shafts (points 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Attachment 1) fulfilled their norms 100 percent and, occasionally, fulfilled their norms 110 to 115 percent. A norm consisted of digging a tunnel 27 to 35 m. long each month. All workers received additional money for fulfilling the prescribed norm and were required to work 26 days each month. Most of the workers were quite young, their ages ranging from 18 to 45 years. Although [redacted] no cases of unusual or recurrent illness among those who worked on the surface, a large percentage of the underground workers suffered from silicosis. 25X1
3. All of the mines were visited daily during each shift by a Soviet geologist who inspected the uranium content of the mined ore, the norm fulfillment, and work attendance.
4. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] These Soviet women were not permitted to associate with the German nationals, and, if caught, were immediately sent back to the USSR. [redacted] when the Soviet women first arrived, they wore high black boots, their hair in braids, and lacked style in their dress, however, after about two months, they cut and restyled their hair and bought modern dresses. 25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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- 3



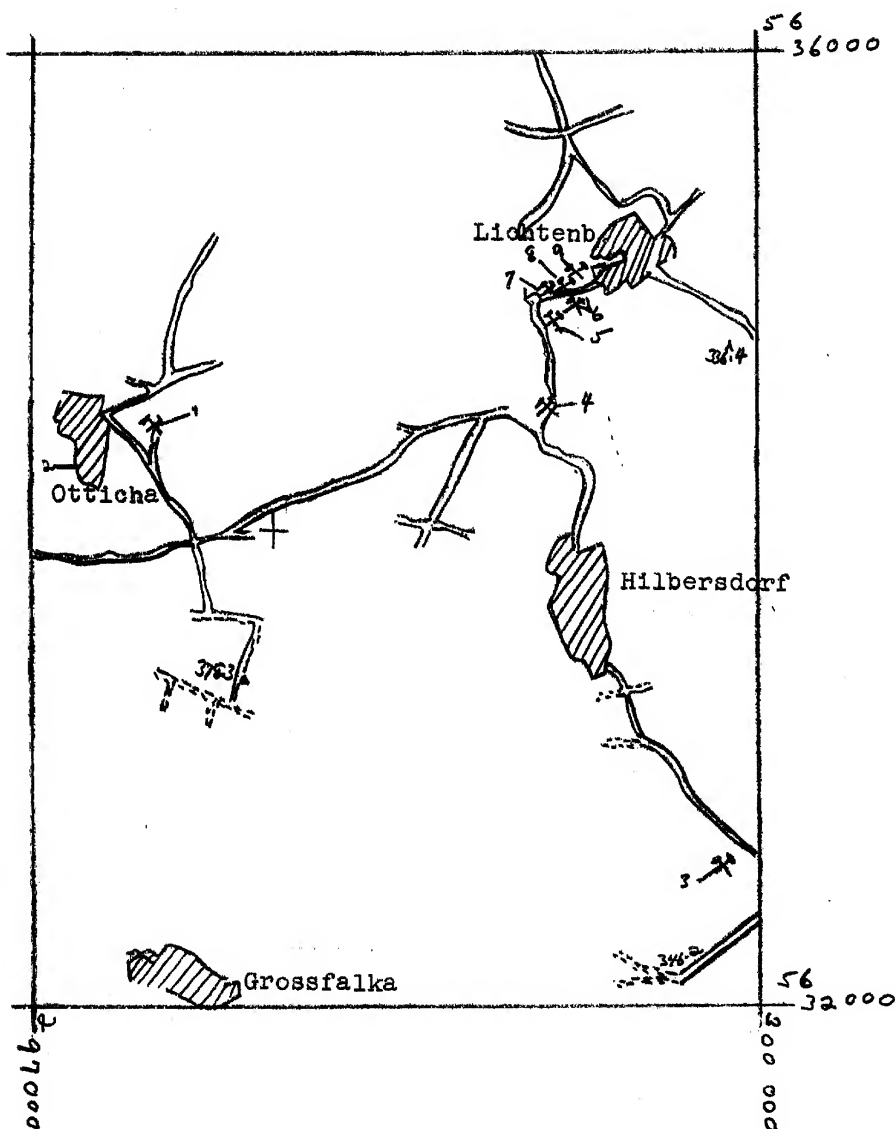
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Attachment 1

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- 4 -

25X1

Legend to Attachment 1

1. Shaft "Otticha" 80 m. deep. was sunk in October 1951 [redacted] 25X1

Shaft Otticha was worked in two shifts from 0600 - 1400 hours and from 1400 to 2200 hours, employed four women, 24 men, four of whom were hewers. The women performed only very light work. No Soviet personnel were permanently assigned to this shaft. Occasionally, male Soviet civilian geologists and topographers arrived to inspect the mine. They were dressed in mining uniforms which were dark blue with gold buttons, light blue trimming on the hat, and a light blue striped down the leg of the trousers. The German mining uniforms were the same in style except instead of gold trimming they had light blue. Women earned about 400 East Marks while the men received 500 and 600 East Marks monthly. [redacted] the output of ore on a daily or monthly basis [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] was very irregular. Miners graded the ore using Geiger counters at the spot of excavation. It consisted of grades 1, 2, and 3, according to uranium contents. The first grade contained a maximum up to 60% uranium. The second grade between 20% and 40%, and the third grade between 15% and 20%. The ore was put in wooden boxes, 60 x 30 x 30 cm. nailed on the top, and the type of ore grade marked on the box. Boxes were placed into metal buckets fastened on a steel rope and pulled from the shaft. The boxes were then put on trucks and transferred to the Teichwolframsdorf (N 50-43, E 12-15) railroad station and put on railroad cars. 25X1

2. The town of Otticha which had about 158 inhabitants including workers from Shaft Otticha.
3. Shaft "Pohlen" was sunk in 1952 and was 80 m. deep, employed 20 men, four of whom were hewers, and two girls. The shaft operated in two shifts from 0600-1400 hours and from 1400-2200 hours. Ore deposits were in horizontal layers; excavation took place in two directions. The surrounding terrain was hilly with granite rocks, coniferous and deciduous trees. The ore was graded in the same manner as Shaft Otticha. The predominant element in the mined ore was uranium.
4. Shaft "Loitsch", sunk in March 1952, was about 32 m. deep; excavation was in two directions. Twenty-six men, four of whom were hewers, worked at this shaft; there were no women employees. 25X1
5. Shaft "Lichtenberg" [redacted] was sunk in March 1952. Twenty-four men, four of whom were hewers, and two women worked here. The shaft was between 30 and 55 m. deep.
6. Shaft "Lichtenberg" [redacted] Same description as point 5 above. 25X1
7. Shaft "Lichtenberg" [redacted] Same description as point 5 above.
8. Shaft "Lichtenberg" [redacted] Same description and information as point 5 above.
9. Shaft "Lichtenberg" [redacted] Same information as point 5 above.

Workers received their passes for the above shafts from Wismut A.G. in Ronneburg (N 50-52, E 12-11) and Gera (N 50-52, E 12-05). Passes were made of light brown paper, 12 x 10 cm., with a 3 x 4 cm. photograph. These passes were renewed every year. One Soviet military guard, armed with carbine, was posted at each of the following points: 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. All the mines in this area were enclosed by a two meter-high

SECRET

SECRET

- 5 -

25X1

Legend to Attachment 1 cont'd

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wooden fence. In March 1953 the entire population of Lichtenberg was evacuated. Hewers in the shafts did not wear masks but wore rubber suits while working underground.

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SECRET  
- 6 -



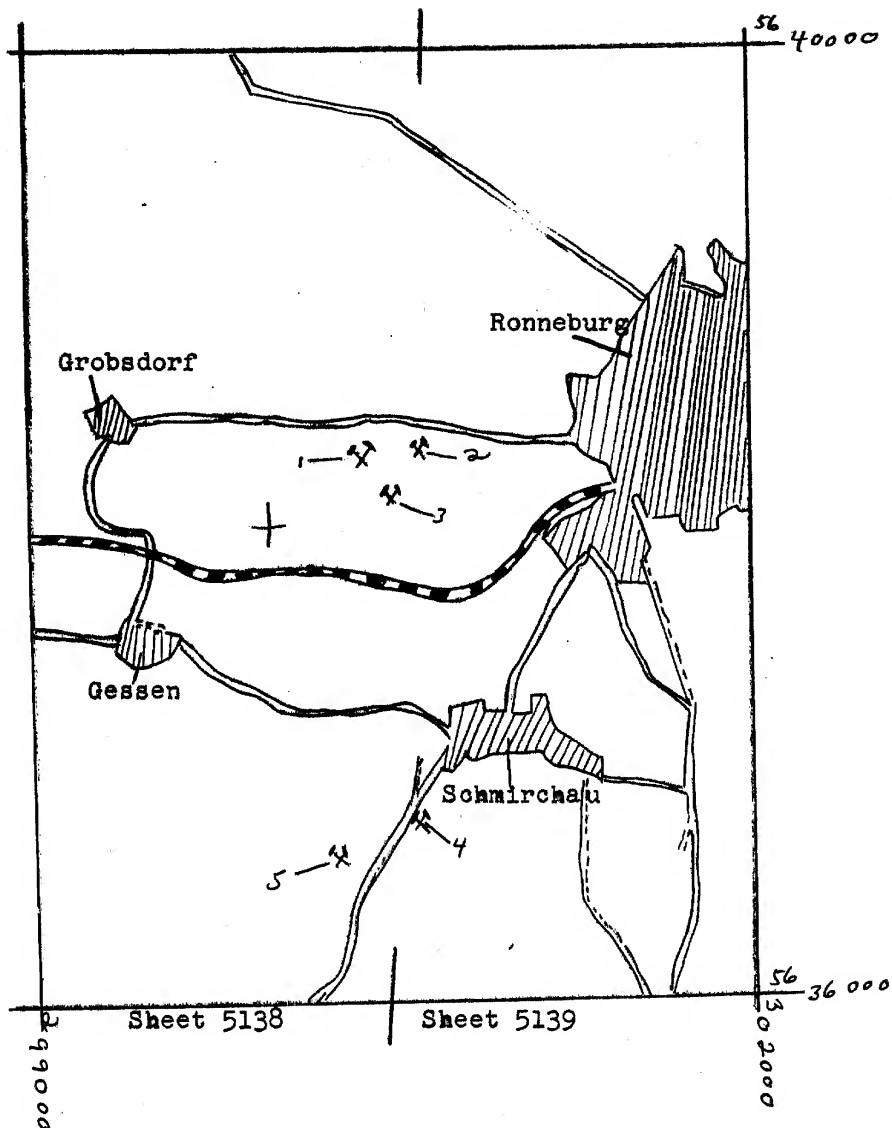
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Attachment 2

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- 7 -

25X1

Legend to Attachment 2

1. Shaft "Gessenthal", sunk in October-November 1952, was 60-80 m. deep. Two shifts were worked and employed 12 men, two hewers, and no women.
2. Shaft "Gessenthal". Same information as point 1 above.
3. Shaft "Gessenthal". Same information as point 1 above.
4. Shaft "Schmirehau", sunk in August 1952, worked two shifts, was 80 m. deep, and employed 24 men(six hewers), and no women.
5. Shaft "Schmirehau". Same information as point 4 above. Ore from the above shafts was transferred in wooden boxes on trucks to Teichwolframsdorf to the transshipment depot.

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- 8 -

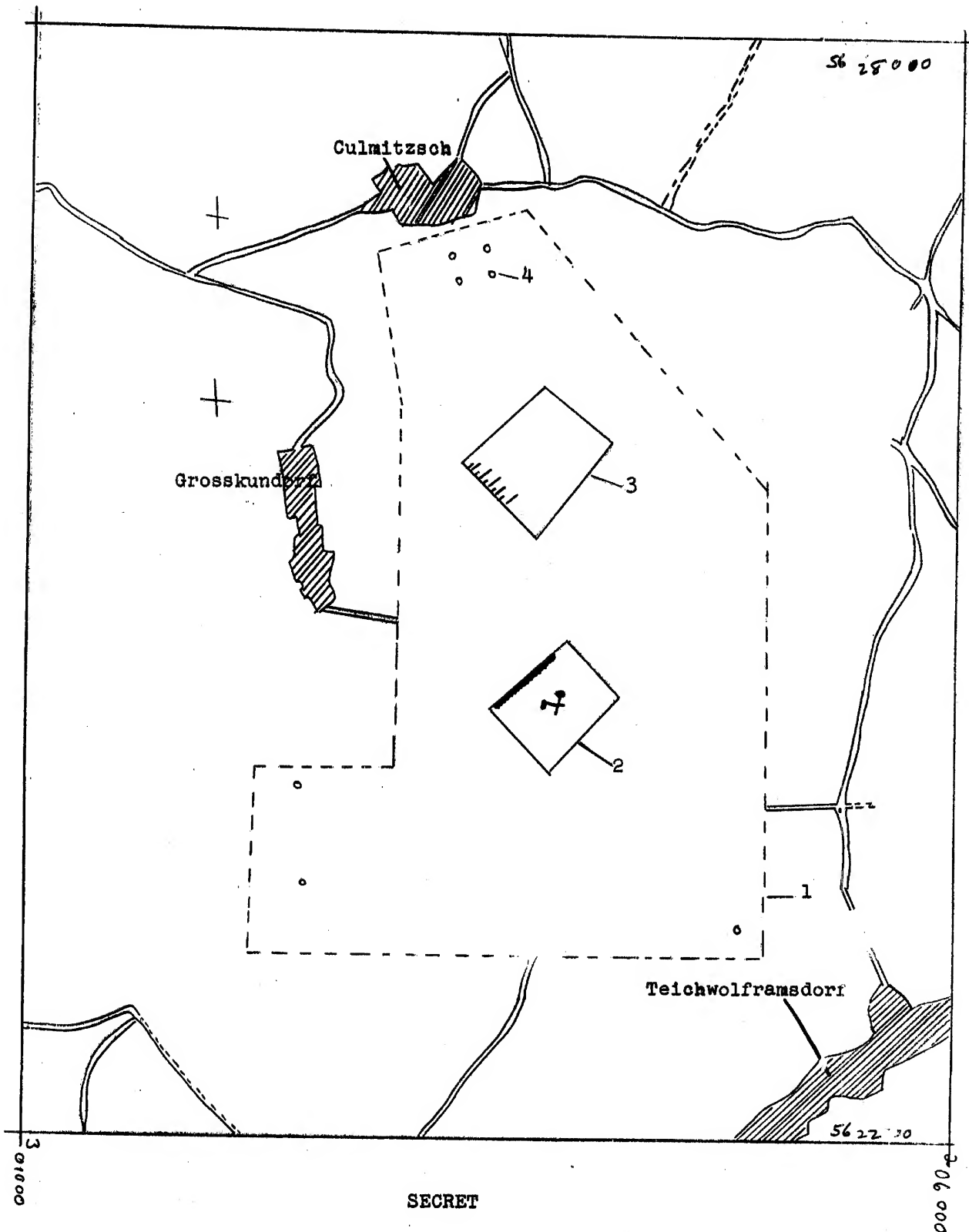
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Attachment 3

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- 9 -

25X1

Legend to Attachment 3

1. Area of "Tagebau" (or open working). From July until September 1951 two Soviet and 14 German topographers, surveyed this 25X1 area and uncovered uranium deposits; the area covered eight square km. They drilled a hole of 30 m. depth and the ore extracted was sent to the Chemnitz research center for testing packed in 30 x 10 cm. cloth bags. After the surveying was completed, plans were 25X1 made to evacuate the population from the surrounding villages, Sorge, Settendorf, and Katzendorf.
2. An area of a one-half square kilometer where the top soil (Muttererde) was removed until hard soil was reached. Hundreds of trucks were utilized to clear the area and transfer the soil to the northern border of point 1 above. More than 100 electrically-driven dredges of German origin removed the top soil in points 2 and 3. Upon reaching the hard soil, usually between three and five meters depth, it was dynamited until the uranium ore was reached. Between 800 and 1200 persons worked at points 2 and 3 in three shifts. An unknown number of women loaded the soil onto trucks.
3. An area of 3/4 square kilometer where work was performed as described in point 2 above. The removal of top soil began in May 1952.
4. Holes drilled by topographers for the purpose of discovering uranium ore deposits. Hand and electric boring machines drilled holes 1.80 m. in diameter, 30 m. deep, and 50-60 m. apart. Soviet geologists acted as supervisors. The results of these explorations were promising.

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-10-



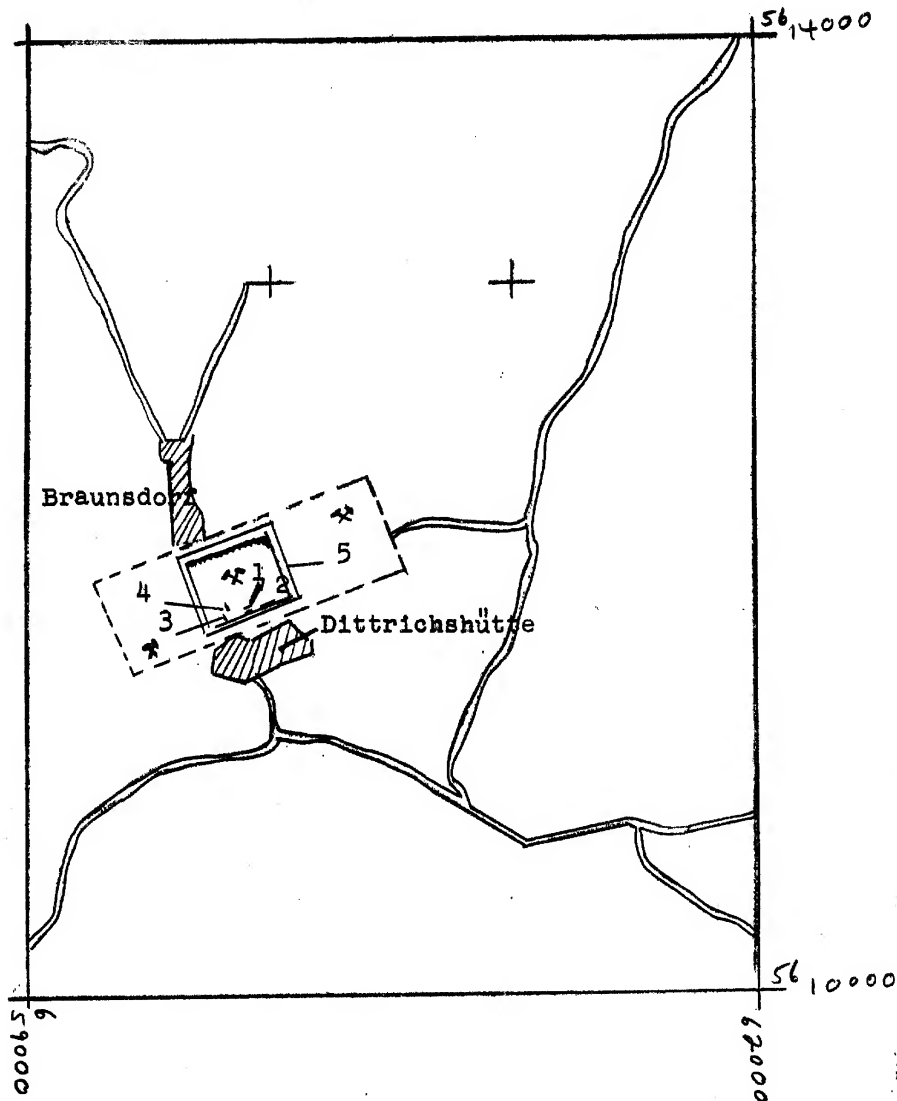
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Attachment 4

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-11-

25X1

Legend to Attachment 4

1. & 2. Brick buildings, 40 x 10 x 6 m., which contained kitchens and messhalls.
3. Brick garages, 60 x 6 x 4 m., with tar paper shed-type roofs.
4. Administration building, brick, 24 x 8 x 8 m., with tar paper shed-type roof; 40 men and women worked here including four Soviet engineers, 12 male geologists, and five women geologists.
5. Mesh wire fence, two meters high. The area, indicated on the sketch by a dotted line, was an open working area. Two hundred men and women were employed in this area in the removal of the top soil. The administrative headquarters for this project was located in Saalfeld (N 50-39, E 11-21).

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- 12 -



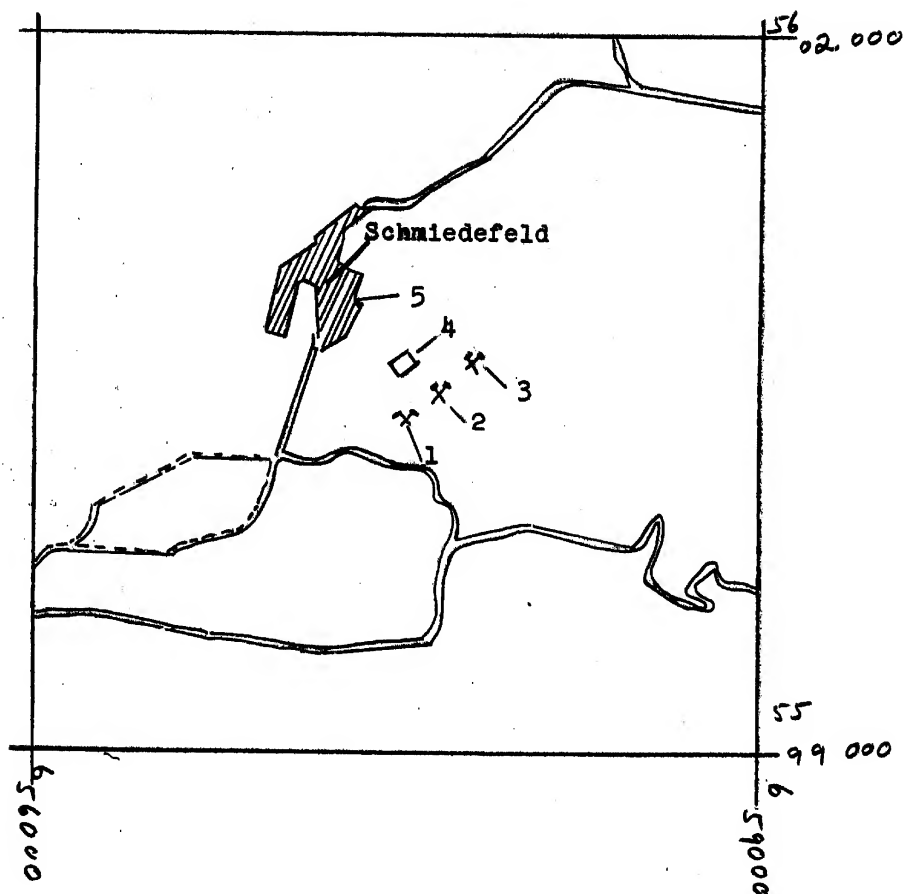
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Attachment 5

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- 13

25X1

Legend to Attachment 5

1. Shaft "Taubenbach", sunk in January 1953, was 80 to 100 m. deep. Horizontal tunnels were being dug at the 40 m. depth and 80 m. depth. Thirty men, including four hewers, and two women worked in each of three shifts.
2. Shaft "Taubenbach". See information in point 1 above.
3. Shaft "Taubenbach". See information in point 1 above.
4. Explosive storage for "gelatine dozarit" (probably a blasting gelatin), on the surface, where a 400 kg. reserve was maintained.
5. Village of Schmiedefeld (N 50-32, E 11-13), where most of the mine workers lived.

Ore from the above shafts was transferred to the ore transshipment depot in Bad Blankenburg (N 50-41, E 11-16). The administrative offices for this region were in Rudolfstadt (N 50-43, E 11-20).  25X1  
eight km. northwest of this mining area were several uranium shafts.

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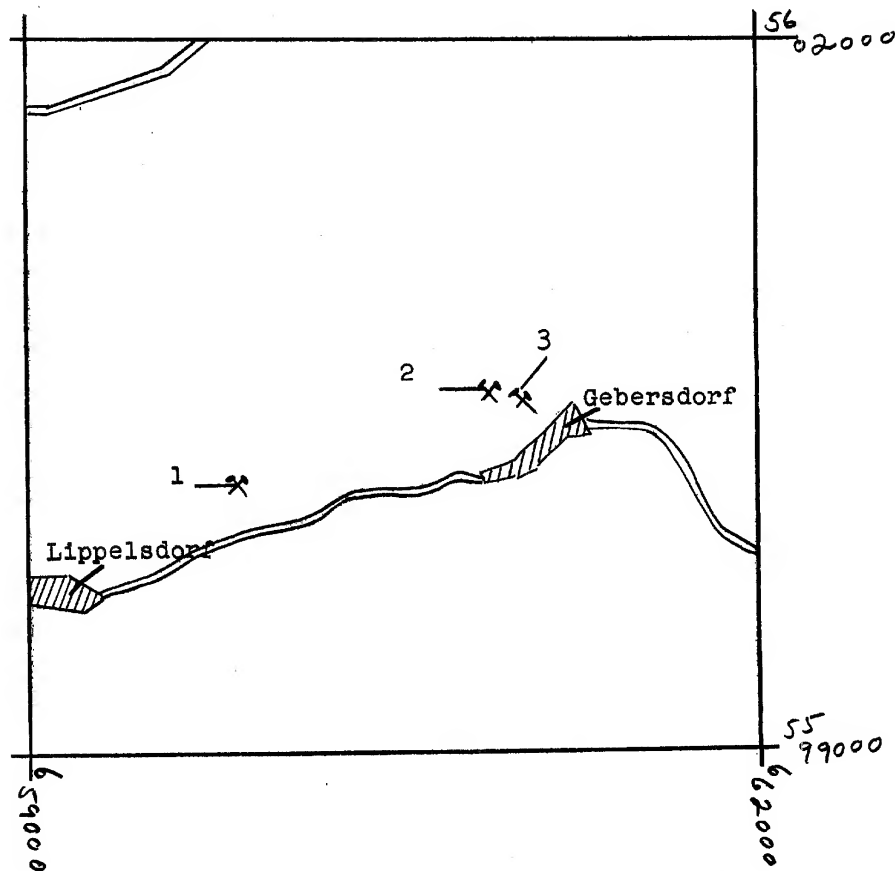
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Attachment 6

Scale 1:25000

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SECRET  
- 15 -

25X1

Legend to Attachment 6

1. Shaft "Lippelsdorf", sunk in July-August 1952, was 70-80 m. deep and had horizontal ore deposits. Two shifts were worked. Of the 50 people employed, 36 were underground workers.  one woman working at this site. 25X1
2. Shaft "Gebersdorf", sunk in July 1952, was 40 m. deep. Three shifts were worked with a 60-man labor force.
3. Shaft "Gebersdorf", sunk in July-August 1952, was 60-100 m. deep. Three shifts were worked by 60 workers.

Mine workers in this area resided in Grafenthal (N 50-32, E 10-48) because the village of Gebersdorf was evacuated. Ore from these mines was sent to the Bad Blankenburg transshipment depot.

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- 16 -



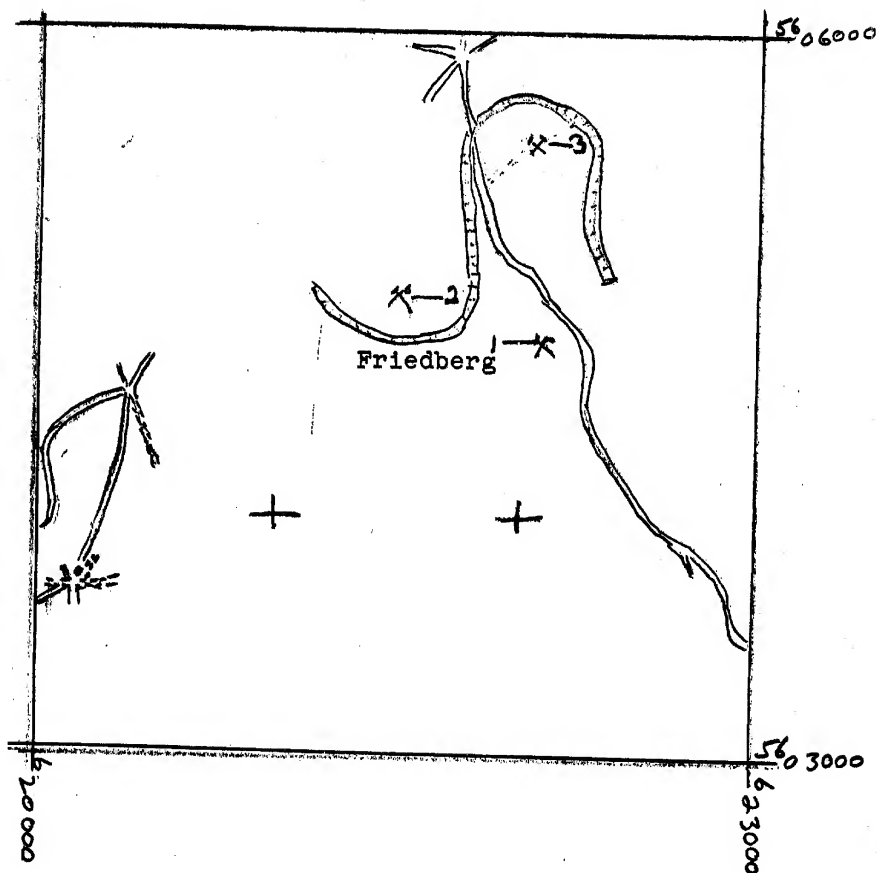
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Attachment 7

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- 17 -

25X1

Legend to Attachment 7

1. Shaft..
2. Shaft.
3. Shaft.

[redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] These shafts were sunk  
in spring 1952 and worked in three shifts. [redacted]  
[redacted] the ore was rich in uranium content. Ore 25X1  
from these shafts was transferred to the Bad Blankenburg transshipment  
depot.

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- 18 -



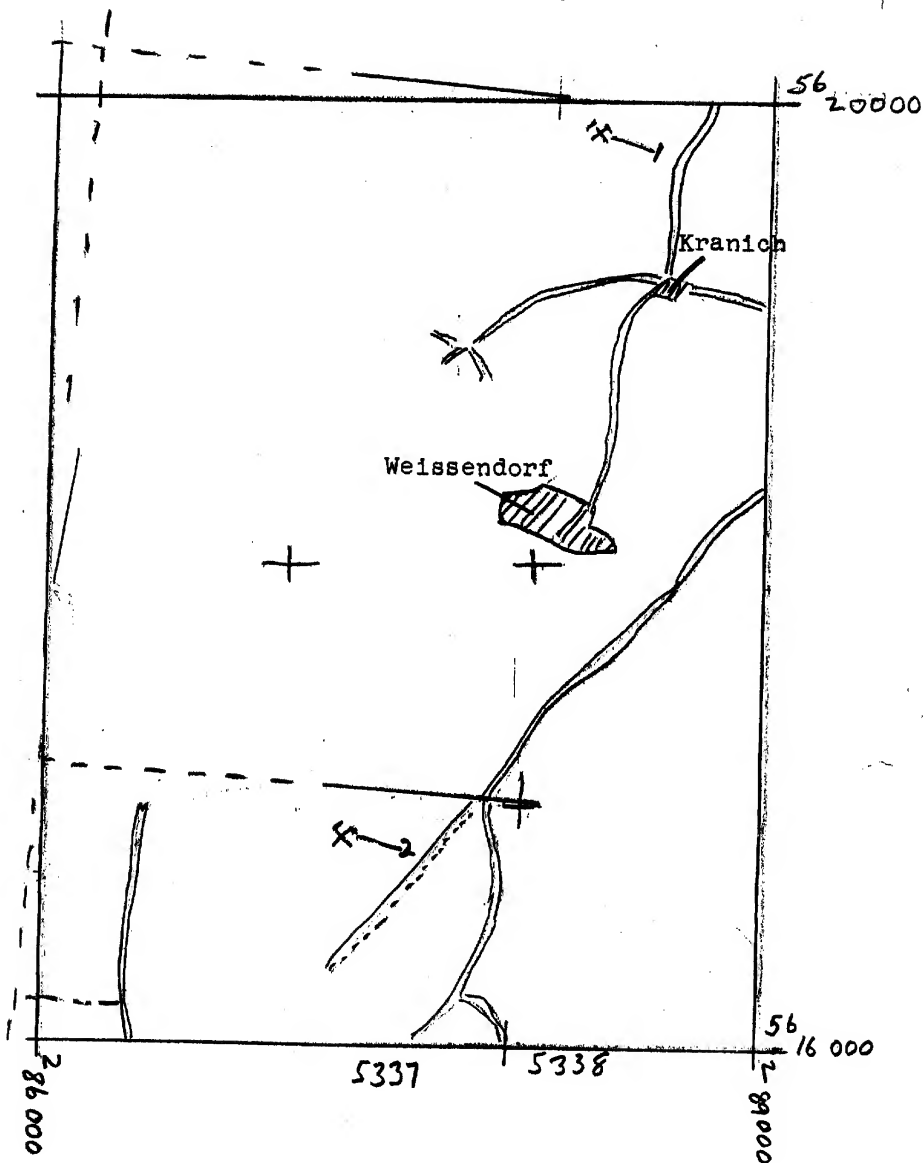
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Attachment 8

Scale 1:25000

25X1

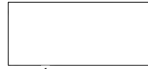
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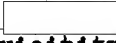
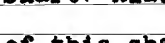
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- 19 -



25X1

Legend to Attachment 8

1. Shaft "Kranich", sunk in April-May 1952, was approximately 60 m. deep. Two shifts were worked; the area was not fenced.
2. Shaft "Alauenwerk", sunk in June 1952, worked two shifts.  25X1  
 an additional shaft was to be sunk in the near vicinity of this shaft. Ore was sent to an unknown destination.

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- 20 -



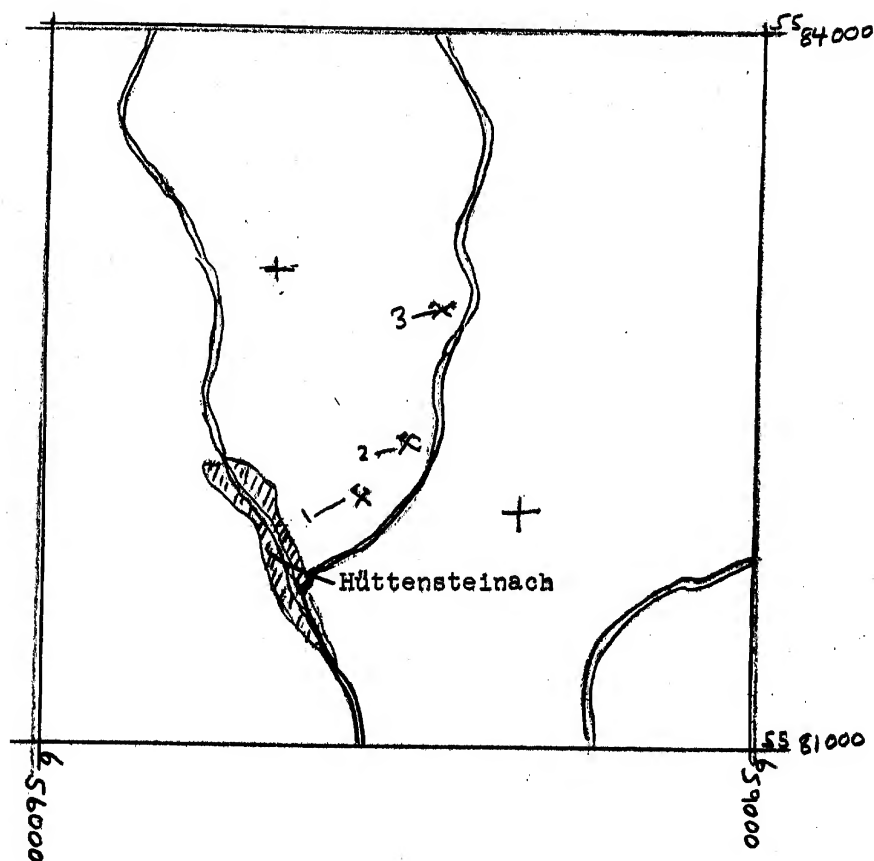
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Attachment 9

Scale 1:25000

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- 21 -



25X1

Legend to Attachment 9

1. Shaft "Steinach" was 60-80 m. deep and worked three shifts.
2. Shaft. Same description and information as point 1 above.
3. Shaft. Same description and information as point 1 above.

Over 300 people, both men and women, were employed at these shafts. It was rumored that the ore had excellent uranium content. Ore extracted from these shafts was sent to Bad Bläkenburg.   eight more shafts were planned for the area north of point 3. 25X1

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